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GP 2683

PATENT
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#12
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2/27/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Zellner et al.

Group Art Unit: 2683

Examiner: Miller

Serial No.: 09/740,373

Filed: December 19, 2000

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

February 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants, in accordance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* (substitute for Form 1449A/PTO). A copy of each of the cited references is herewith enclosed.

Express Mail Number ER524412146 US

Date of Deposit February 13, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Patricia A. Mack

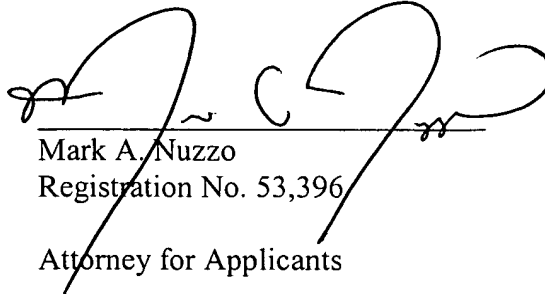
Applicants note that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicants further note that the filing of this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the references cited herein constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1), Applicant submits that no fee is necessary for consideration of this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* because no item of information contained in this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant*.

Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees necessary for consideration of this Supplemental *Information Disclosure Statement* by Applicant to Account No. 11-1110.

Respectfully submitted,



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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.